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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,412	02/25/2002	Koji Takikura	SN-US010023	8254
22919	7590	03/23/2004	EXAMINER	
SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 20TH STREET, NW, SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2680			LANGDON, EVAN H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/080,412	Applicant(s) TAKIKURA, KOJI	
	Examiner Evan H Langdon	Art Unit 3654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not understood what is meant by the limitation "sealing means having".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10, 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito (US 5,615,841) in view of Koike (6,164,577).

Saito shows a water sealing component assembly as seen in Figure 1, comprising:

a first component 14 that is rotatable around a rotational axis;

a second component 12 arranged adjacent the first component 14 such that a micro clearance is defined between clearance defining surfaces of the first 14 and second 12 components, and the first component is rotatable relative to the second via a bearing 11 that is disposed adjoining at least one of the first and second components in a direction of the rotational axis.

Although Saito shows a water-sealing component assembly, he fails to show a water-repelling film layer provided on at least one of the clearance defining surfaces of the first and second components.

Koike teaches a surface treatment water-repelling film layer generally referred to as 14 for corrosion and weather resistance as explained in column 5 on lines 55-65. This film layer is inherently water-repellent if it is to be corrosion and weather resistant.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the water sealing component assembly of Saito to include a water-repelling film layer as suggested by Koike, to repel water from the defined micro clearance between the first and second component.

In regards to claim 2, Saito as modified by Koike teaches ground film layer 16 provided between the final water-repelling film layer 22 and either the first or second component.

In regards to claim 3, where the water repelling film layer is a thin metallic film impregnated with a fluorinated resin as explained in column 5 on lines 30-40 (Koike).

In regards to claims 4 and 5, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when combining Saito with the teachings of Koike to apply the water-repelling film layer on at least one of mutually opposing surfaces of the first and second components and/or a contiguous surface thereof, to make the coated component water-repellant.

In regards to claim 6, Saito as modified by Koike teaches a water-sealing component comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner and an outer race, the first component being a pressing member 14 attached to the outer race the second member being a rod member 12 and attached to the inner race as seen in Figure 1 (Saito).

In regards to claim 7, Saito as modified by Koike teaches a water-sealing component comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner and an outer race, the first component being a pressing member 14 attached to the outer race the second component having a cylindrical member 12 fitted to the rod member.

In regards to claim 8, Saito as modified by Koike teaches a water-sealing component comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner and an outer race, the first component being a plate-shaped member 12 attached to the outer race and the second component having a pressing member 12 attached to the inner race of the bearing.

In regards to claim 9, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when combining Saito with the teachings of Koike to apply the water-repelling film layer on both of the mutually opposing surfaces of the first and second components to them more water-repellant.

In regards to claim 10, where the cylindrical member 12 has a projecting portion which has a lip that tapers out as seen in Figure 1 (Saito).

In regards to claim 12-14, Saito as modified by Koike as applied to claims 1-10 teaches a water-sealing component in a fishing reel attached to a fishing rod.

In regards to claim 15, Saito as modified by Koike teaches a fishing reel comprising a handle 15 (Saito) a reel unit having a spool shaft 16, a rotor 3 rotatable about the spool shaft 16, a spool 5 disposed adjacent the rotor 3 and axially movable along the spool shaft, a water-sealing structure defined between the rotor and spool shaft, a first component 14 attached to the rotor as seen in Figure 1 (Saito), a second component being a spool shaft arranged adjacent to the first component such that a micro clearance is defined between the opposing surfaces of the first and second components, where the first component 14 is rotatable relative to the second component,

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and a water repelling film layer 14 (Koike) on at least on of the opposing surfaces of the first and second components.

In regards to claim 16, Saito as modified by Koike teaches the spinning reel water-sealing structure comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner attached to the spool shaft and an outer race attached to the rotor, the first component being a pressing member 14 attached to the outer race an the second component being the spool shaft 12.

In regards to claim 17, Saito as modified by Koike teaches the spinning reel water-sealing structure comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner attached to the spool shaft and an outer race attached to the rotor, the first component being a pressing member 14 attached to the outer race an the second component having a cylindrical member 12 fitted to the spool shaft.

In regards to claim 18, Saito as modified by Koike teaches the spinning reel water-sealing structure comprising a bearing 11 (Saito) having an inner and an outer race, the first component being a plate-shaped member 14 attached to the outer race an the second component having a pressing member 12 attached to the inner race of the bearing.

In regards to claim 19 and 20, refer to Saito as modified by Koike as applied to claims 9 and 10 above.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 11 and 21 are allowed.

***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evan H Langdon whose telephone number is (703)-306-5768. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703)-308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ehl

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Matecki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" and last name "Matecki" clearly distinguishable.

KATHY MATECKI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600